



# Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Children's Services Directorate

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## Minutes

# BARNSLEY SCHOOLS FORUM

### MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE FORUM HELD ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021

#### PRESENT

##### Headteacher Representatives

Nick Bowen, Dean Buckley and Antoinette Drinkhill

##### Governor Representative(s)

Molly Beever, Adrian England, Margaret Gostelow, Mark Pawson and Michael Sanderson

##### Special Education Provision Representative

Josh Greaves

##### Barnsley MBC Elected Representative

Councillor Sarah Tattersall

#### Officers

Nina Sleight	Service Director (Education, Early Start and Prevention) Barnsley MBC
Josh Amahwe	Strategic Finance Manager (Core Services Directorate) Barnsley MBC
Lynne Herbert	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Shafeek Khan	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

## **1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR**

The Secretary of the Schools Forum outlined the arrangements for the election of the Chair to the Forum and nominations were sought. Members of the Forum nominated one representative and the nomination was put to a vote of those members present at today's meeting.

### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That Michael Sanderson be duly re-elected as the Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum for a two-year period commencing at today's meeting.**

## **ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR**

The Secretary of the Schools Forum also outlined the arrangements for the election of the Vice-Chair to the Forum and nominations were sought. No nominations were made for this position and the Secretary to the Forum referred to the two options which were now available to Members. The first was not to proceed with the election of a Vice-Chair as it was not mandatory to do so. However, if Members recommended the election of a Vice-Chair, the second option would be to seek nominations at the next meeting of the Forum.

### **RESOLVED:**

- 2. That arrangements be made for the proposed election of a Vice-Chair at the next business meeting of the Schools Forum.**

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Formal apologies were submitted by Mr Crook, Ms Hammerton, Mrs James, Mrs Milliner, Mrs Smith, Mr Smith and Mrs Wilks.

## **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Representatives from the Forum declared their interest in relation to matters being considered as part of Agenda Item 5 of today's meeting.

## **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Schools Forum held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

## **MATTERS ARISING THROUGH THE MINUTES**

The Secretary to the Forum advised that a progress report on the Trade Union Facilities Time Agreement in maintained schools together with the proposed employee representation model among academies to be brokered through the St Mary's MAT would be submitted for consideration at the next business meeting.

## **REPORTS**

### **Schools Budget (2020/21): Year-end Outturn**

Mr Amahwe presented his report on the year-end outturn and commented in relation to the following:

- Schools' DSG Budget
- Carry forward of school balances
- Specific grant funding for schools (including Pupil Premium Grant funding and Post-16 funding)
- Schools Delegated DSG Budgets
- Centrally retained schools budgets (including reference to out of authority school placements for children and young people with SEND; top-up funding for special schools; specialist resource provision, together with Post 16/Further Education provision.
- The latest accumulated DSG deficit and proposed mitigation measures

Mr Amahwe attempted to answer a number of queries and requests for clarification concerning this report but was prevented due to technical difficulties.

### **RESOLVED**

- 3. That any questions concerning this report be e-mailed to the Secretary of the Forum after today's meeting who would arrange for Mr Amahwe to respond.**
- 4. The Forum notes the final outturn position for the schools' delegated budget (particularly the carry forward balances for maintained schools) and the reported deficit on the centrally retained DSG budgets**

#### School Budgets (2021/22): Latest Position

Mr Amahwe presented his report on the latest position and commented on the following:

- The latest, confirmed DSG funding allocation for the Borough.
- The latest confirmed allocations for the Schools, Central Schools Services, High Needs and Early Years Blocks
- Analysis of risks and mitigations

Again, Mr Amahwe attempted to respond to any questions raised concerning this report but was prevented due to technical difficulties.

### **RESOLVED**

- 5. That any questions concerning this report be e-mailed to the Secretary of the Forum following today's meeting who would arrange for Mr Amahwe to respond.**
- 6. The Forum notes the financial position of Barnsley's maintained schools and the identified financial risks against the schools DSG budgets during 2021/22.**

#### High Needs Block: DSG Management Plan (2021-25)

### **RESOLVED:**

- 7. That consideration of this report be deferred until the next meeting of the Schools Forum.**

**ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

No matters were raised at today’s meeting.

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF THE BARNSELY SCHOOLS FORUM (2021/22)**

The Secretary to the Forum, presented a schedule of dates for meetings of the Forum during 2021/22. It was noted that whilst Step 4 of the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions would cease on 19<sup>th</sup> July paving the way for physical meetings of the Forum to resume, this depended on Council policy; the local ‘R’ rate going forward and when the full vaccination of adults in the Borough had been completed. The Forum would be kept advised of developments accordingly.

Through the provisions of Part 1, Section 12 (A) of the Local Government Act (1972) the following agenda item was considered without any members of the public or media being present.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE BARNSELY SCHOOLS FORUM**

Mr Sanderson presented a report which was intended to initiate a discussion at today’s meeting on enhancing the Forum’s effectiveness as a partner in ensuring schools and settings are funded and equipped to promote the overall wellbeing of children and young people in the Borough and for them to achieve their potential. Unfortunately, due to the technical problems which had beset today’s meeting, Mr Sanderson suggested that the issues which needed to be considered in his report should form the basis of a development session, to be held in September. Following a show of hands’ a significant majority of members of the Forum expressed their support for a development session for this purpose.

**RESOLVED**

**8: That the Secretary contact members of the Forum with a view to identifying a date for a development session in September**

Mr Sanderson thanked members of the Forum for their attendance and contribution during this meeting.

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Signed by the Chair of the Barnsley Schools Forum